

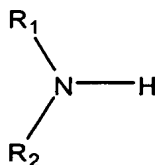
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A product comprising mineral fibers which have been coated with a sizing composition comprising a liquid resin and a crosslinking agent, wherein the liquid resin for the sizing of mineral fibers, exhibiting exhibits a dilutability in water at 20°C at least equal to 1 000%, and comprises comprising at least 70% by weight of condensates obtained from a phenolic compound, formaldehyde and an aminoalcohol according to the Mannich reaction, wherein the mineral fibers comprise glass or rock, and the product is selected from the group consisting of (1) a tissue mat of said mineral fibers and having a weight per unit area of between 10 and 300 g/m², (2) a thermal and/or sound insulation product obtained by forming a blanket of said sized mineral fibers, and (3) said thermal and/or sound insulation product having said fiber tissue mat positioned over at least one of its external faces.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The resin product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound is phenol, a cresol, resorcinol or a mixture of these compounds.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The resin product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aminoalcohol is selected from the group consisting of the compounds of formula



wherein R₁ and R₂, which are identical or different, represent H or a linear or branched C₁-C₁₀ hydrocarbonaceous chain which can comprise one or more unsaturations and one or more OH radicals, at least one of R₁ or R₂ comprising at least one OH radical.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~resin~~ product as claimed in claim 3, wherein the OH radical is carried by the terminal carbon atom of the hydrocarbonaceous chain.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~resin~~ product as claimed in claim 4, wherein the aminoalcohol is monoethanolamine or diethanolamine.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~resin~~ product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resin exhibits a level of free formaldehyde of less than 0.4%.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ~~resin~~ product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resin exhibits a level of free phenolic compound of less than 0.02%.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~resin~~ product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resin exhibits a level of free formaldehyde of less than 0.25%, a level of phenolic compound of less than 0.01% and an infinite dilutability.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The ~~resin~~ product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resin exhibits a level of ash of less than 0.04% by weight of dry resin.

Claims 10-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A [[The]] process as ~~claimed in claim 10~~ for the preparation of a liquid resin exhibiting a dilutability in water at 20°C at least equal to 1 000%,

comprising at least 70% by weight of condensates obtained from a phenolic compound,
formaldehyde and an aminoalcohol according to the Mannich reaction,

which comprises:

- in reacting a phenolic compound, formaldehyde and an aminoalcohol according to
the Mannich reaction in a formaldehyde/phenolic compound molar ratio of greater than 1, the
formaldehyde and the aminoalcohol being reacted simultaneously with the phenolic
compound, and

- in cooling the reaction mixture,

wherein the formaldehyde and amino alcohol are introduced into the phenolic
compound after having been mixed beforehand.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The ~~composition~~ product as claimed in claim [[16]]
1, comprising, wherein the sizing composition comprises expressed as parts of dry matter,
from 18 to 65 parts by weight of resin and from 10 to 82 parts by weight of crosslinking
agent.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The ~~composition~~ product as claimed in claim [[16]]
1, wherein the crosslinking agent is a compound comprising at least two functional groups
capable of reacting with the amine functional groups or the hydroxyl functional groups of the
resin.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The ~~composition~~ product as claimed in claim 18,
wherein the crosslinking agent is formaldehyde, an amine, an acid, a poly(carboxylic or

acrylic acid) of high molecular mass, of the order of 500, an anhydride of these acids or a mixture of these compounds.

Claims 20-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~A tissue mat of mineral fibers comprising a fiber as claimed in claim 20, wherein the tissue mat has a weight per unit area of between 10 and 300 g/m²~~ The product as claimed in claim 1, which is (1) a tissue mat of mineral fibers.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~A thermal and/or sound insulation product obtained by forming a blanket of sized mineral fiber as claimed in claim 20~~ The product of claim 1, which is (2) a thermal and/or sound insulation product.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~The product as claimed in claim 23, further comprising a fiber tissue mat as claimed in claim 22 positioned over at least one of the external faces~~ The product of claim 1, which is (3) said thermal and/or sound insulation product comprising said fiber tissue mat positioned over at least one of its external faces.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by changing it into a product claim and containing a Markush group selected from the products recited in Claims 22-24. Claims 2-9 have each been amended to be consistent with the above-discussed amendment to Claim 1. Claims 10-14 have been canceled. Claim 15 has been amended into independent form, but incorporates --comprises-- language instead of "consists of" as recited in Claim 10. Claim 16 has been canceled. Claims 17-19 have been amended to be consistent with the above-discussed amendment to Claim 1. Claims 20 and 21 have been canceled. Finally, Claims 22-24 have been amended to be consistent with the above-discussed amendment to Claim 1.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-9, 15, 17-19 and 22-24 are now pending in the application.